CLAIMS

1. Cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least one purified natural or synthetic polypeptide, the said polypeptide being characterized in that it corresponds to the following amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 1:

245 250 255

Val Asp Gln His Gly Ser Gly Ala Pro Gly Val Val Gln Gly Pro Pro

260 265 270

Cys Ser Asn Gly Gly Leu Pro Gly Lys Pro Cys Pro Pro Ile Thr Ser

275 280 285

Val Asp Lys Ser Tyr Gly Gly Tyr Glu Val Val Gly Gly Ser Ser Asp

290 295 300

Ser Tyr Leu Val Pro Gly Met Thr Tyr Ser Lys Gly Lys Ile Tyr Pro

305 310 315 320

Val Gly Tyr Phe Thr Lys Glu Asn Pro Val Lys Gly Ser Pro Gly Val

325 330 335

Pro Ser Phe Ala Ala Gly Pro Pro Ile Ser Glu Gly Lys Tyr Phe Ser

340 345 350

Ser Asn Pro Ile Ile Pro Ser Gln Ser Ala Ala Ser Ser Ala Ile Ala

355 360 365

Phe Gln Pro Val Gly Thr Gly Gly Val Gln Leu Cys Gly Gly Gly Ser

370 375 380

Thr Gly Ser Lys Gly Pro Cys Ser Pro Ser Ser Ser Arg Val Pro Ser

385 390 395 400

Ser Ser Ser Ile Ser Ser Ser Ala Gly Ser Pro Tyr His Pro Cys Gly

405 410 415

Ser Ala Ser Gln Ser Pro Cys Ser Pro Pro Gly Thr Gly Ser Phe Ser

420 425 430

Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Gln Ser Ser Gly Lys Ile Ile Leu Gln Pro Cys

435 440 445

Gly Ser Lys Ser Ser Ser Ser Gly His Pro Cys Met Ser Val Ser Ser

450 455 460

Leu Thr Leu Thr Gly Gly Pro Asp Gly Ser Pro His Pro Asp Pro Ser

465 470 475 480

Ala Gly Ala Lys Pro Cys Gly Ser Ser Ser Ala Gly Lys Ile Pro Cys

485 490 495

Arg Ser Ile Arg Asp Ile Leu Ala Gln Val Lys Pro Leu Gly Pro Gln

500 505 510

Leu Ala Asp Pro Glu Val Phe Leu Pro Gln Gly Glu Leu Leu Asp Ser

515 520 525

Pro

2. Composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the polypeptide is purified from mammals.

3. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is purified from mammalian skin.

4. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is purified from human skin.

5. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is purified from human epidermis.

6. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is involved in intercorneocyte cohesion.

7. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide partly consists of the polypeptide sequence as described in Claim 1.

8. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide has an apparent molecular weight of between 50 and 60 kilodaltons, preferably between 52 and 56 kilodaltons.

9. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is basic.

10. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is glycosylated.

11. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is phosphorylated.

12. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the polypeptide is phosphorylated, basic and glycosylated and in that the polypeptide has an apparent molecular weight of between 50 and 60 kilodaltons, preferably between 52 and 56 kilodaltons.

13. Composition according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a mixture of polypeptides derived from the proteolysis of the polypeptide as described in Claims 1 to 12.

14. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 for treating the thinning of the epidermis, and in particular the horny layer, and/or for treating excessive fragility of the skin covering and/or for strengthening intercorneocyte cohesion and/or inducing the thickening of the horny layer.

15. Composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 13 for treating trophic skin disorders or those following cicatrization disorders.

16. Method of cosmetic treatment for treating the thinning of the epidermis, and in particular of the horny layer, and/or for treating

excessive fragility of the skin covering and/or for strengthening intercorneocyte cohesion and/or inducing the thickening of the horny layer, characterized in that a cosmetic composition as described in any one of Claims 1 to 13 is applied to the skin of the subject to be treated.

17. Method of cosmetic treatment for treating trophic skin disorders or those following cicatrization disorders, characterized in that a cosmetic composition as described in any one of Claims 1 to 13 is applied to the skin of the subject to be treated.

18. Cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, an effective quantity of at least one protease active on the polypeptide as described in one of Claims 1 to 13, chosen from Endoproteinase LysC, Endoproteinase GluC, Proline-Endopeptidase, Thrombin, Pepsin, Myxobacter AL117 and Elastase.

19. Composition according to Claim 18, characterized in that it comprises, in addition, a glycosidase.

20. Composition according to either of Claims 18 and 19 for treating hyperkeratosis.

21. Composition according to either of Claims 18 and 19 for treating xerosis, ichthyoses, psoriasis, benign or malignant hyperkeratotic tumour lesions or reactive keratoses.

22. Composition according to either of Claims 18 and 19 for treating leukokeratosis of the uterine neck during prolapsus, buccal leukokeratoses, or benign or malignant hyperkeratotic tumour lesions of the Malpighian mucosae.

23. Method of cosmetic treatment for reducing intercorneocyte cohesion or for promoting desquamation, characterized in that a composition as described in Claim 18 or 19 is applied to the skin of the subject to be treated.

24. Cosmetic or pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a physiologically acceptable medium, at least the following coding nucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO: 2:

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1    ATG GGC TCG TCT CGG GCA CCC TGG ATG GGG CGT GTG GGT GGG CAC
46   GGG ATG ATG GCA CTG CTG CTG GCT GGT CTC CTC CTG CCA GGG ACC
91   TTG GCT AAG AGC ATT GGC ACC TTC TCA GAC CCC TGT AAG GAC CCC
136  ACG CGT ATC ACC TCC CCT AAC GAC CCC TGC CTC ACT GGG AAG GGT
181  GAC TCC AGC GGC TTC AGT AGC TAC AGT GGC TCC AGC AGT TCT GGC
226  AGC TCC ATT TCC AGT GCC AGA AGC TCT GGT GGT GGC TCC AGT GGT
271  AGC TCC AGC GGA TCC AGC ATT GCC CAG GGT GGT TCT GCA GGA TCT
316  TTT AAG CCA GGA ACG GGG TAT TCC CAG GTC AGC TAC TCC TCC GGA
361  TCT GGC TCT AGT CTA CAA GGT GCA TCC GGT TCC TCC CAG CTG GGG
406  AGC AGC AGC TCT CAC TCG GGA AGC AGC GGC TCT CAC TCG GGA AGC
451  AGC AGC TCT CAT TCG AGC AGC AGC AGC AGC TTT CAG TTC AGC AGC
496  AGC AGC TTC CAA GTA GGG AAT GGC TCT GCT CTG CCA ACC AAT GAC
541  AAC TCT TAC CGC GGA ATA CTA AAC CCT TCC CAG CCT GGA CAA AGC
586  TCT TCC TCT TCC CAA ACC TCT GGG GTA TCC AGC AGT GGC CAA AGC
631  GTC AGC TCC AAC CAG CGT CCC TGT AGT TCG GAC ATC CCC GAC TCT
676  CCC TGC AGT GGA GGG CCC ATC GTC TCG CAC TCT GGC CCC TAC ATC
721  CCC AGC TCC CAC TCT GTG TCA GGG GGT CAG AGG CCT GTG GTG GTG
766  GTG GTG GAC CAG CAC GGT TCT GGT GCC CCT GGA GTG GTT CAA GGT
811  CCC CCC TGT AGC AAT GGT GGC CTT CCA GGC AAG CCC TGT CCC CCA
856  ATC ACC TCT GTA GAC AAA TCC TAT GGT GGC TAC GAG GTG GTG GGT
901  GGC TCC TCT GAC AGT TAT CTG GTT CCA GGC ATG ACC TAC AGT AAG
946  GGT AAA ATC TAT CCT GTG GGC TAC TTC ACC AAA GAG AAC CCT GTG
991  AAA GGC TCT CCA GGG GTC CCT TCC TTT GCA GCT GGG CCC CCC ATC
1036 TCT GAG GGC AAA TAC TTC TCC AGC AAC CCC ATC ATC CCC AGC CAG
1081 TCG GCA GCT TCC TCG GCC ATT GCG TTC CAG CCA GTG GGG ACT GGT
1126 GGG GTC CAG CTC TGT GGA GGC GGC TCC ACG GGC TCC AAG GGA CCC
1171 TGC TCT CCC TCC AGT TCT CGA GTC CCC AGC AGT TCT AGC ATT TCC
1216 AGC AGC GCC GGT TCA CCC TAC CAT CCC TGC GGC AGT GCT TCC CAG
1261 AGC CCC TGC TCC CCA CCA GGC ACC GGC TCC TTC AGC AGC AGC TCC
1306 AGT TCC CAA TCG AGT GGC AAA ATC ATC CTT CAG CCT TGT GGC AGC
1351 AAG TCC AGC TCT TCT GGT CAC CCT TGC ATG TCT GTC TCC TCC TTG
1396 ACA CTG ACT GGG GGC CCC GAT GGC TCT CCC CAT CCT GAT CCC TCC
1441 GCT GGT GCC AAG CCC TGT GGC TCC AGC AGT GCT GGA AAG ATC CCC
1486 TGC CGC TCC ATC CGG GAT ATC CTA GCC CAA GTG AAG CCT CTG GGG
1531 CCC CAG CTA GCT GAC CCT GAA GTT TTC CTA CCC CAA GGA GAG TTA
1576 CTC GAC AGT CCA TAA
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25. Composition according to Claim 24, characterized in that the nucleotide sequence comprises all or part of the nucleotide sequence as described in Claim 24.

27. Use of the nucleic acid sequence as described in either of Claims 24 and 25 for preparing a polypeptide or a mixture of polypeptides as described in Claims 1 to 13.

28. Use of the nucleic acid sequence as described in either of Claims 24 and 25 for preparing a ribonucleic acid.

29. Use of the purified polypeptide or of its purified proteolysis fragments or of any synthetic peptide as described in Claims 1 to 13, for preparing or purifying any molecule capable of binding specifically to the said purified polypeptide or to the said purified proteolysis fragments or to the said synthetic peptide.

30. Use according to the preceding claim for preparing or purifying structural proteins specific to corneodesmosomes or enzymes of the horny layer of the "protease" or "glycosidase" type.

31. Use of the purified polypeptide or of its purified proteolysis fragments or of any synthetic peptide as described in Claims 1 to 13, for preparing or purifying specific monoclonal antibodies or antisera.

Met Gly Ser Ser Arg Ala Pro Trp Met Gly Arg Val Gly Gly His Gly

1 5 10 15

Met Met Ala Leu Leu Leu Ala Gly Leu Leu Leu Pro Gly Thr Leu Ala

20 25 30

Lys Ser Ile Gly Thr Phe Ser Asp Pro Cys Lys Asp Pro Thr Arg Ile

35 40 45

Thr Ser Pro Asn Asp Pro Cys Leu Thr Gly Lys Gly Asp Ser Ser Gly

50 55 60

Phe Ser Ser Tyr Ser Gly Ser Ser Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Ile Ser Ser

65 70 75 80

Ala Arg Ser Ser Gly Gly Gly Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser Ser Gly Ser Ser

85 90 95

Ile Ala Gln Gly Gly Ser Ala Gly Ser Phe Lys Pro Gly Thr Gly Tyr

100 105 110

Ser Gln Val Ser Tyr Ser Ser Gly Ser Gly Ser Ser Leu Gln Gly Ala

115 120 125

Ser Gly Ser Ser Gln Leu Gly Ser Ser Ser Ser His Ser Gly Ser Ser

130 135 140

Gly Ser His Ser Gly Ser Ser Ser Ser His Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser

145 150 155 160

Phe Gln Phe Ser Ser Ser Ser Phe Gln Val Gly Asn Gly Ser Ala Leu

165 170 175

Pro Thr Asn Asp Asn Ser Tyr Arg Gly Ile Leu Asn Pro Ser Gln Pro

180 185 190

Gly Gln Ser Ser Ser Ser Ser Gln Thr Ser Gly Val Ser Ser Ser Gly

195 200 205

Gln Ser Val Ser Ser Asn Gln Arg Pro Cys Ser Ser Asp Ile Pro Asp

210 215 220

Ser Pro Cys Ser Gly Gly Pro Ile Val Ser His Ser Gly Pro Tyr Ile

225 230 235 240

Pro Ser Ser His Ser Val Ser Gly Gly Gln Arg Pro Val Val Val Val